

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CU-02
SY-05 /058 W

-----232009Z 053262 /43

R 231006Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0391

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: FORMER STUDENT ACTIVIST CHARGED FOR ACT OF LESE
MAJESTE

1. MARCH 23 BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS THAT THE PUBLIC
PROSECUTOR ON MARCH 22 FILED CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST
FORMER STUDENT ACTIVIST BUNCHAT SATHIANTHAMMANI AND
UNNAMED ACCOMPLICES FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ACT OF
LESE MAJESTE AGAINST THE CROWN PRINCE ON OCT 4, 1976.
THE ACT OCCURRED DURING A MOCK HANGING REPRESENTING THE
TWO STUDENT ACTIVISTS WHO WERE GARROTED AND HANGED ON
SEPT 24, 1976, IN NAKHON PATHOM WHILE PUTTING UP POSTERS
PROTESTING THE PRESENCE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM
KITTIKHACHON IN THAILAND. THE PROSECUTOR OFFICIALLY
CHARGED THAT THE FACE OF ONE OF THE ACTORS WAS MADE UP
TO RESEMBLE THE CROWN PRINCE AND THAT HE WAS DRESSED IN
A KHAKI UNIFORM SIMILAR TO ONE WORN BY THE CROWN PRINCE.

2. BUNCHAT IS THE FIRST OF THOSE ARRESTED ON OCT 6 TO
BE FORMALLY CHARGED. OTHERS PRESUMABLY WILL BE SIMILARLY
CHARGED.

3. COMMENT: PROSECUTOR'S ACTION MARCH 22 MEANS THAT
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THE FIRST OF THOSE ARRESTED ON OCT 6 TO BE CHARGED IS
INDIVIDUAL WHO ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED IN THE MOCK
HANGING WHICH PRECIPITATED THE EVENTS OF OCT 6 AT
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY AND THE COUP. AN OFFICIAL OF THE
DEPT OF CORRECTIONS TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT THE RING-
LEADERS OF THE MOCK HANGING, INCLUDING SUTHAM
SAENGPRATHUM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NOW DEFUNCT

NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL OF THAILAND WOULD BE CHARGED
IN MILITARY COURTS FOR INCITING A RIOT AND OTHER SIMILAR
CHARGES IN ADDITION TO CRIMINAL CHARGES OF COMMITTING
AN ACT OF LESE MAJESTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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